

Amarella mexicana (Griseb.) n. comb.; *Gentiana mexicana*
Griseb. Gen. Sp. Gent. 243. 1839.

✓ **Cirsium Flodmanii** (Rydb.) n. comb.; *Carduus Flodmanii* Rydb.
Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 1: 451. 1900.

J. C. ARTHUR

REVIEWS

Dinsmore's Plants of Palestine*

Mr. Dinsmore's paper is practically a checklist of the plants now definitely known to occur in Palestine. From this list are omitted the various species and some genera heretofore credited to Palestine in Post's Flora of Syria, Palestine and Sinai and in the older Flora Orientalis by Boissier, now believed to be extralimital, or included in other species under older names. A careful census of the first half of the list and of scattered genera through the remainder show that Mr. Dinsmore's checklist includes a few score species not credited to Palestine in the mentioned earlier floras. This number proves rather smaller than might be expected from a region where continuous exploration and collecting have given opportunities far beyond those available to the earlier writers.

The arrangement, or classification, is that of DeCandolle, in the main, and follows almost *seriatim* the arrangement given in Post's Flora. The Latin names of families, genera and species are accompanied by proper abbreviations for the respective authorities, but there are no further references to the places of publication and occasionally a species is named after some authority where only close study of synonymy would show it to be not applicable to the original authority for the same name; in some cases referring to the same species, in others referring to different species.

The species in Mr. Dinsmore's list are numbered and are accompanied by five arbitrary signs which indicate the uses or

* Dinsmore, J. E.—Die Pflanzen Palästinas. Auf Grund eigener Sammlung und der Flora Posts und Boissiers, mit Beigabe der arabischen Namen von Prof. D. Dr. G. Dalman, pp. 1-122. J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, 1911.

cultivation, or distribution of the various species for the general regions indicated in Palestine.

This list seems to have its chief value in its accompaniment of arabic names for such species as are identifiable and for those species concerning which there is little doubt in the application of native names. These arabic names are distinguished so far as authoritative use is concerned by initials after those who have made special study or who have already published such arabic equivalents. The noticeable feature of these arabic equivalents is the large number of them whose application to species botanically known is the authoritative work of Professor Dalman. Were it not for these additional arabic terms, which must be of great reference value to any one understanding the arabic language and having occasion to deal in any way with Palestine plants, it would seem that the time and money invested in this list had been unwisely expended, for the classification is now far out of date and in no wise departs sufficiently from DeCandolle and Post to be of individual value. It is to be regretted that the pamphlet was not written with the classification of Engler's *Syllabus* which represents the most widely accepted classification in present-day use.

It should be borne in mind that Mr. Dinsmore was limited to conditions in the city of Jerusalem, under which it is exceedingly difficult to do the highest grade of scientific work, due to the almost entire absence of library facilities and on account of the long distance to extensive collections where thorough and adequate comparison of material could be made.

It is quite probable, too, that Mr. Dinsmore had no opportunity to study Decaisne's *Florula Sinaica*, Ann. Soc. Nat. Paris, 1836; Lowne's *Flora of Sinai*, Jour. Linn. Soc., 1865; Tristram's *Fauna and Flora of Palestine*, Palestine Exploration Fund, London, 1884; the manuscript catalog of the *Flora of Palestine*, by Hanbury and J. Hooker (at Kew); or Hart's *Some Account of the Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra and Wâdy' Arabak*, Palestine Exploration Fund, London, 1891.

The author of the list has introduced a few forms under already recorded species, which forms appear by the character of pub-

lication to be new, but if they have not been previously published in some other journal, they must be relegated to the already regrettably extensive list of *nomina nuda*. This unfortunate condition would not have obtained had Dinsmore appended a few terms of characterization by which the new forms could be distinguished from the species to which they are related.

The general summary is, then, that Dinsmore's *Die Pflanzen Palästinas* is a *seriatim* list of the plants of Palestine quoted from Post's *Flora of Syria, Palestine and Egypt* limited to those known to Mr. Dinsmore to occur in Palestine; accompanied by the already published arabic equivalents on the authority of Boissier, Bauer, Hadded, etc., with the addition of other arabic equivalents on the authority of Dalman; prepared without reference to the entire reclassification of plants which has been so actively carried out during the last twenty-five years, a reclassification almost universally adopted in botanic centers and in educational institutions.

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CURRENT LITERATURE

In 1904 K. M. Wiegand and F. W. Foxworthy issued a key to the genera of woody plants in winter. This valuable little pamphlet of 33 pages has run through several editions and was perhaps the best known treatment of the subject until the present time. From the Storrs Experiment Station we have just received a much more elaborate work* covering a similar field.

After a preface acknowledging the chief sources of information and a short bibliography, the authors take up in the introduction, first, the question of "Names." Throughout they have given the commoner vernacular names of each species as well as the ". . . one scientific name at present sanctioned by botanical authorities." Naturally these are the names maintained in the new Gray Manual, and the authors are to be congratulated upon

* Blakeslee, A. F., and Jarvis, C. D. *New England Trees in Winter*. Bull. Storrs Agr. Exp. Sta. 69: 307-576. [Je] 1911. Storrs, Conn. [Received in December, 1911.]